

Draft Plan for a Process:
Responding to December 13, 2010 City Council Directive
February 22, 2011

Introduction

On December 13, 2010, the City Council, as part of its action on the 2011 budget gave the following Staff Direction:

(3) Direct NCR to work with the NCEC and report back to City Council by March 1, 2011, on how programs, including the Neighborhood Investment Fund and the Community Innovation Fund, will be implemented moving forward with an emphasis on mitigating equity issues among neighborhoods related to the suspension of new contracts.

Herein, this directive will simply be referred to as the Equity Directive.

To respond to the Equity Directive, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) members attending the NCEC Committee of the Whole (CoW) January 12, 2011 meeting agreed to create a “plan for a plan” modeled after the Proposal for the Process of New Program Development. The latter was the “plan for a plan” for the Community Participation Program (CPP) developed and approved in 2010.

Background

At its December 13, 2010 budget meeting, the City Council directed the Finance and City Departments to “allow neighborhoods to contract up to 50% of the uncontracted balance of their Phase II NRP allocation (excluding Phase II Allocated but not Contracted Reserve funds), as of City Council adoption of the 2011 budget, but not to exceed a total contracted amount of 50% of the Phase II allocation.”

The City Council created a Neighborhood Funding Work Group on January 14, 2011 comprised of the City Council President and Vice President, the chairs of the Ways and Means/Budget Committee and the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, as well as a Mayoral representative, the City Coordinator, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Director, the Finance Director, the Communications Director and the Intergovernmental Relations Director. Its charge is to frame options and proposed actions for consideration by the Committee of the Whole and Ways & Means Committee relative to the 2011 Operating Budget resolution footnote (p). Footnote (p) includes the directive for the NCEC as well as other directives for property tax relief involving the use of NRP Phase II monies.

The Neighborhood Funding Work Group anticipates having a report for the public and City Council in early March that will offer options for carrying out the Council’s budget directive for 2011 related to neighborhoods.

At the City Council Ways & Means February 7, 2011 meeting, that committee adopted staff recommendation to keep the Consolidated Tax Increment Finance (TIF) which is the funding source for the new CPP and pays for neighborhood related resources within the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department, but to have the City only “retain” 50% of the captured net tax capacity of the Consolidated TIF in the years 2012 and 2013.

The City Council would like to use uncontracted Phase II NRP funds as the revenue source for those things Consolidated TIF money designated for “neighborhood revitalization purposes” would otherwise have been used to fund in 2012 and 2013. These would include the new CPP and TIF funded activities within the NCR, originally considered for funding from the Consolidated TIF.

I. Equity Directive Recommendation Development

1. The NCEC and NCR will follow the City's Core Principles of Community Engagement in helping to respond to the Equity Directive. These principles served the department and the commission well in developing the CPP.
2. Engagement with stakeholders by the NCEC and the NCR will be essential to helping to define “equity” and to identifying strategies for mitigating equity issues among neighborhoods related to the suspension of new NRP Phase II contracts.
3. As with the development of the CPP, it is important to have all NCEC members actively participate in the development of the Equity Directive recommendations.
4. NCEC CoW will not be making decisions on the recommendations. These decisions remain with the NCEC and the NCEC CoW would be providing status updates on its progress to the NCEC as needed.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

1. The roles and responsibilities of the NCR, NCEC and the NCEC CoW relative to each other are already defined.
2. The NCEC and the NCEC CoW will be responsible for community engagement with stakeholders on how NCR/NCEC programs will be implemented moving forward with an emphasis on mitigating equity issues among neighborhoods related to the suspension of new contracts.
3. A protocol for communication between NCEC Committee of the Whole and the City Council Neighborhood Funding Work Group will be established to allow each to inform the other in a regular and consistent manner on matters specific to or affecting the Equity Directive work of the NCEC.
4. The City Council, through the Neighborhood Funding Work Group, will be responsible for determining the legal compliance of the use of NRP Phase II funds. The NCEC CoW will use this information in formulating its Equity Directive recommendations.

III. Deliverables

1. A set of recommendations to the City Council on how NCR/NCEC programs should be implemented moving forward with an emphasis on mitigating equity issues among neighborhoods related to the suspension of new contracts.
2. These recommendations may include implementation details for current and future funding programs.

3. The recommendations may also lead to changes in the current CPP guidelines and/or allocation formula.

IV. Major Milestones and High Level Time Line

1. The NCEC CoW, working with NCR staff, will be responsible for developing a work plan that details the timing and the action steps for responding to the Equity Directive. Included in the Work Plan will be specifics on engagement with community stakeholders. As with the development of the CPP, Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) and the Community Innovation Fund (CIF), decision making authority lies with the NCEC unless the NCEC otherwise directs.
2. If uncontracted NRP Phase II funds are used in place of “neighborhood revitalization purposes” Consolidated TIF District funds, the number of neighborhood organizations who will primarily be relying on NCR/NCEC funds will be significant. It will be important to have potential funding changes known as soon as possible.
3. The Equity Directive recommendations from the NCEC could have 2012 budget implications. The 2012 budget process begins in August. The recommendations could also affect the CPP.
4. Other factors potentially affecting the schedule are refinement of the CPP based on input from stakeholders; potential adjustment to the CPP based on recommendations of this work and development of the NIF and CIF.
5. It is desirous to provide sufficient time for neighborhood organizations to develop their three year CPP submissions this year.

Major Milestones and High Level Time Line

February 2011:

- NCEC approves Plan for a Process (PFP) including adoption of major milestones and high level time line

March 2011:

- Plan for a Process submitted to City Council Committee of the Whole in response to original Equity Directive due date
- Work Plan development (e.g. finalized outreach strategy)
- Communicate work plan details to stakeholders (ongoing throughout work)

April 2011:

- Being implementation of Work Plan

May 2011:

- Continue implementation of Work Plan
- NCEC CoW begins formulation of Equity Directive recommendations

June 2011:

- Complete implementation of Work Plan
- NCEC review and approval of Equity Directive recommendations

July 2011:

- Final NCEC approved Equity Directive recommendations to City Council
- Communicate to stakeholders NCEC approved recommendations and how input was used

August - October 2011:

- Update existing programs as necessary
- Implementation of new programs as necessary